



#114 - THE EVE OF AN ARGUMENT

by Ken Bradbury

(Eden is on the phone)

Counseling Service, Pat Eden speaking. Who? I think you have the wrong number. This is a marriage counseling service. You want Orkin. Yes, they get rid of pests. Oh, your husband? I'll put you on with my secretary for an appointment. No. No, you can't spray for that kind of thing. Goodbye. *(Eden hangs up)* She wanted him exterminated.

(seeing someone enter) Good afternoon! Welcome to Eden Counseling. Mr. and Mrs. ... uh ... *(checks notes)* ... Adam and Eve? I don't think I have your last name here. No last name. That's fine. Lots of folks prefer to remain anonymous. Here ... just have a seat and ... *(he pulls out a chair then watches them sit in opposite corners)* ... okay... no need to sit together, I guess. Now, we'll just ... *(stops, stares a moment, then)* You know, it's funny how fast clothing styles can change. I guess I'm behind the times. Uh ... I've never seen outfits quite like those before. Matching, are they? Yes. Uh ... very nice ... comfortable, I imagine. And cool. No dry cleaning required! *(laughs, then sees the humor is not shared by Adam and Eve)*

Look, let's get acquainted, shall we. Now ... just how long have you two been married? Forever? Well, I'm sure it seems like it. What? It actually is forever? Whatever you say, Adam. And ... children? Several. Okay. I can see this isn't going to be easy.

Let's start with you, Adam. Why are you having trouble relating to Eve? The snake? What snake? The one in the garden. Oh. Have you tried a dog? Two of them? Male and female. But what does a snake have to do with ... the apple? I'm sorry, folks. You've got me confused here. You say the snake made her eat an apple? You know Adam, sometimes when the sun gets hot, you're tired, the

plumbing needs fixing and the kids are driving you crazy ... well, it's easy to imagine things.

Yes, Eve? The snake did talk to you? Really. Okay, what's the joke? He was ... what, an insurance salesman, right? You bought an expensive insurance policy without consulting your husband and ... No? Cable TV? Amway? Tupperware? ... It really was a snake. I mean a slither-on-the-ground sort of ... snake. It was a snake.

Eve, have any other strange objects been speaking to you? Hear voices in your sleep or anything? Let's try another tack. When you were young, Eve, did your mother ever ... What? No mother? You don't remember your mother? You never had a mother? Adam, what's she talking about? ... You didn't have one either. Just a father. Okay ... I can play along with this. You both had a father and no mother. (*laughs*) Well, that's a first. Did you two know each other growing up? I mean, without a mother, you'd need company. Have you known each other since childhood? ... You had ... no ... childhood ... Okay. You were both born as fully grown adults. Would you excuse me for a moment? (*picking up a phone and whispering*) Miss Burke, would you call security? No, no violence ... yet. Just have them ready outside the door. Yes ... the ropes, too ... a club if they can find one.

(*to the couple*) Sorry, I had to cancel my golf outing. This case is fascinating. Okay, since you had no childhood and neither of you ever had a mother, let's talk about your fathers, shall we? Adam, you first. What was your father like? I know it's hard to describe your own father. Let's start with what he looked like. Just like Eve's father? Why I am not surprised. Okay, time out. (*searching the room*) ... there's a hidden camera in here somewhere, right? We're on one of those cable TV shows ... it's a gag, right?

No gag? Look, you two come in here stark naked, you tell me you don't have a mother, your fathers look alike, you were never children, and you talk to snakes! What do you expect me to do? Give you a medal? You're both nuts! I mean it! Stark-raving nuts! And you can't split up over a lousy apple! No judge would swallow that! I can't even believe I'm having this conversation!

Look, as far as I'm concerned you can just get out of here and ... *(sees something)* Whoa. Wait a minute. That is the weirdest thing I've ever seen. Where'd it go? Whatta you mean, "What?" Your belly button! Neither one of you has a belly button! I've never seen anything like that! What is this, some sort of new body-piercing trick? You had them removed, right? Plastic surgery or something? *(hears something outside)* What's all that racket? *(looks out a window)* Holy cow! It's a zoo out there! Where'd all those animals come from? Yours? You brought them? *(looks out again)* Your zebras are backed up against my car! And they're ... oh no! *(a grimace)* Eat well, don't they?

Look, if you don't get those animals out of the parking lot right now, I'm gonna call the law! Don't mess with me! I don't know who you are, but ... What? You're going to call who? Your father? You threaten me by calling your father? That is the most juvenile thing I've ever heard of! I'm a grown psychiatrist! I don't care who your father thinks he is, you can't threaten me! Okay! Here! Here! You wanna make a big thing out of this go ahead. There's the phone. Call your daddy. Go ahead, call him! You don't need my phone? What've you got, a cell phone hidden somewhere? No, you don't have anything hidden do you. Well, then go ahead, call him! Call him! *(picks up the phone, quietly)* Miss Burke, tell the guards to stand by. I have two bona fide nutcases standing here naked and crazy. Send for more help ... and put a call into animal control.

(off the phone) Well now, get ahold of daddy, did we? Really? Already? He must have been at home waiting by the phone. I didn't even see your lips move ... but you say you talked to him. And what? He said he doesn't like the way I'm treating his children? Well, isn't that special. Look you nutsos, I've got a dozen guards coming this way right now! You can't threaten me with any stories about ... *(looks around fearfully as the room begins to shake)*

Hey! What's going on? It's an earthquake! *(runs to the window)* Just look at that! The place is coming apart! My car! Get that hippo away from my ... oh, yuck. Your hippo is getting very nervous. *(having trouble standing up)* We gotta get outa here. No wait! You can't leave the office like that! Here! Put something on! We'll all

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be arrested! (*falls to the floor*) Here. Eve, put this shirt on ... (*mimes taking off his shirt*) ... Adam, take my pants ... quick! (*mimes taking them off*) That's all I need in the middle of an earthquake to be caught running down the street with two naked loonies! The ceiling's falling in! This is getting serious! (*crawling to the window*) And look at that! It's a tidal wave coming this way! And we don't even have an ocean! Oh, no! (*looks back to Adam and Eve*) Look, if you two don't ... hey ... where'd you go? Where'd you go? (*screaming*) I'm going crazy! Somebody get me out of here, I'm going crazy! (*looks up*) Officer! Oh, thank goodness you're here! Yes, that's right! You got the call about somebody without their clothes acting crazy! Yes! Yes! You got the right place! You ... Hey! Where are you taking me? Officer! Officer! (*grabs the phone as he leaves*) Miss Burke, cancel my appointments! With who? Noah? Never heard of him! Officer, please! (*Eden is dragged offstage*)

END

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The Author

Kenneth W. Bradbury

Ken Bradbury (B. A. Illinois College) is arguably the most performed author in the nation's speech and drama competition, having authored over 100 selections including 50 plays. He is an active syndicated newspaper columnist and has published four books, Coonridge Digest, Around the World With Freida Marie Crump, Coonridge Devotions and homerville. Ken is a national speaker on writing for the theatre and co-author of "Shadow of Giants," a Lincoln courtroom drama aired on PBS-TV. He has won the Illinois Lincoln Library Award as Outstanding Author of the Year, the McGaw Citation in the Arts awarded by Illinois College, and other recognition. He is a teacher of Creative Arts at the college level. Ken currently resides in Arenzville, Illinois.